



Beta Mu Chapter

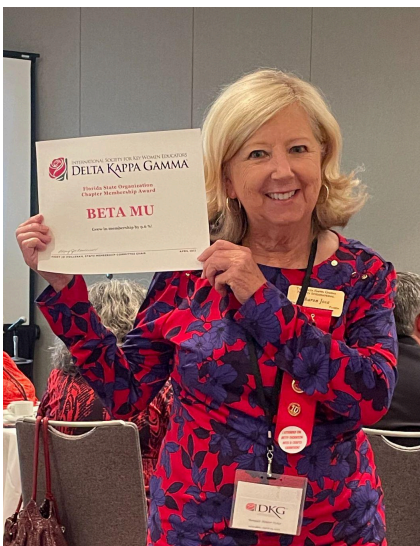
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September 2023 Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 6

Your 2022-2024 Executive Board Members

<u>President</u> Sharon Joca <u>1st Vice-President</u> Jennifer Eason <u>2nd Vice-President</u> Maryjane Edgar <u>Secretary</u> Carol Cochuyt <u>Corresponding Secretary</u> Jill Maunz <u>Treasurer</u> Pat Litterick <u>Parliamentarian</u> Ruth Paine	<u>Personal Development Committee Chair</u> Beverly Wilber <u>Professional Development Chair</u> Susan McInarnay <u>Impacting Education Worldwide Committee Chair</u> Lisa Allen
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Left: President Sharon Joca receiving one of three state awards for our chapter! Middle: Dunia Baptiste received a scholarship from the state DKG to continue her doctoral studies! Right: Sharon Joca and Lisa Allen having fun at the DKG State Convention in April!

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A MESSAGE FROM  
**THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome, everyone to a new school year! We have had such a hot summer that the fall weather can't come soon enough.

It will be so great to get together again to share our camaraderie, fellowship and friendships. Beta Mu is such a wonderful group of key women educators—so full of talent!

We have continued to sign children up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and currently have at least 1200 now receiving books each month. That's just in the 32043 and 32073 zip codes alone!!! Our goal is to add 32068 but the funding doesn't support such a large group yet. We accept the challenge and welcome ideas for raising money for this project to provide early literacy to our future students.

Our treasurer reports that all dues are paid!! Thank you everyone!!

The first meeting will be Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 at the TLC hosted by the Executive Board. Our program will be presented by a Clay County historian.

Please invite your fellow educators, currently in the classroom or retired. We believe there is strength in numbers and we love to see the chapter grow.

Looking forward to another fantastic year!!!  
Take care, Everyone!  
Sharon

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UPCOMING  
**EVENTS**

**Beta Mu Save the Dates for 2023**

Saturday, September 9, 2023	10:00 am, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting @ TLC ok Orange Park High School
Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23, 2023	DKG State Executive Board, Orlando, Lake Mary Marriott
Thursday, November 30, 2023	5:00 pm, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting @ TLC Orange Park High School
Thursday, December 14, 2023	5:00 pm, Christmas Social, @ Valentina's, 330 College Dr. Orange Park, FL

Saturday, January 6, 2024	10:00 am, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting @ TLC Orange Park High School
Saturday, March 2, 2024	DKG District 2 Meeting, Palatka
Thursday, March 7, 2024	5:00 pm, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting @ TLC Orange Park High School
Saturday, May 18, 2024	10:00 am, Beta Mu Chapter Meeting @ TLC Orange Park High School



**Food Pantry Donations**

We will be accepting donations at each of our chapter meetings, with our next meeting being Saturday, September 9.. Clean out your pantry of any unwanted non-perishable items or grab an item or two on your next shopping trip. We are looking forward to supporting our community during these times.



INFORMATION FOR  
**MEMBERS**

**Membership**



Is there a special woman educator you know who’s working in the field or may be retired, and you would like to recommend her for membership in DKG? All professional women educators are welcome to join! Prospective members may be recommended year round and we are always looking to add new members to our Beta Mu Chapter. If you have someone in mind, [please complete this online form](#) and email it to Ruth Paine at [ruth.paine5758@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.paine5758@gmail.com).

## Special Guest Speaker for Our Beta Mu Chapter Meeting on September 9, 2023



We are happy to announce that Connie Thomas, President and CEO of Impact Clay will be the guest speaker at our upcoming chapter meeting on Saturday, September 9. Connie will be speaking to us about the Orange Park Normal and Industrial School that used to be on the site of what is now the Orange Park Town Hall Park at the corner of Kingsley Avenue and U. S. Highway 17. The school opened in October 1891, and at the time, it was the only place in Florida where African-American and white students were educated under the same roof. Connie will share some very interesting facts and information about how the school began, its purpose, the challenges it faced, and why it closed in 1913. We hope you will join us for this special presentation.

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Clay County - Zip 32043 / 32073



We are very excited that our Imagination Library in Clay County is now mailing free books monthly to 1,200+ children! As the enrollments continue to grow, so do the literacy skills of the children we are able to reach with the program. In order to support the children currently enrolled, and to expand the Imagination Library so that it can be available countywide, we depend on the generosity and support of local community members like you.

Below are the funds we took in during the months of May-August from the donations we received and our fundraising efforts.

- \$1,945.00 - Amount 42 Beta Mu Chapter members donated with their dues
- \$507.00 - Proceeds from our Culver's Restaurant Dine-in Event
- \$400.00 - Donation from the Orange Park Presbyterian Church

Below are the upcoming registration/fundraising events we have coming up in the fall.

- Saturday, October 7, 2023 - Soul Food Festival at Vera Frances Hall Park in Green Cove Springs, FL
- Friday, December 1, 2023 - DAPPA Golf Event at Fleming Island Golf Club
- Saturday, December 2, 2023 - Christmas on Walnut Street in Green Cove Springs, FL

We are greatly appreciative of all your support and hope the two linked documents below will be helpful when you promote and encourage donations to the Imagination Library in Clay.

- [DPIL Poster with QR code](#)
- [DPIL Donation Form](#)

We'd also like to invite you to join our Beta Mu Imagination Library Committee. Our meetings are online with Zoom every fourth Tuesday of the month. Please let Pat Litterick at [plitterick@att.net](mailto:plitterick@att.net), or Ruth Paine at [ruth.paine5758@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.paine5758@gmail.com) know you want to join us.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of you who have been so generous with your donations and support of the Imagination Library in Clay County. The program truly would not be possible without you!

### **Celebrate, Support, Involvement**

We are always looking for new ways to connect with our members. If you are involved with an outside commitment, we would love to celebrate and support you! This includes school organizations, sports organizations, community theater groups, etc.! Use [this Google Form](#) to let us know what you are involved in and when your event(s) are. Physical hard-copy forms will also be available to fill out at chapter meetings.

### **Remembering Two of Our DKG Beta Mu Sisters**

We would like to honor two of our Beta Mu Sisters whom we sadly lost during the recent summer months. Both of them will be fondly remembered for their successful careers as key women educators, the strong devotion each had for their families, and how much they both enjoyed life.



#### **Betzy Lou McDaniels Nelson**

Betzy married her high school sweetheart, Jeff, and the two of them raised their family and enjoyed the entirety of their educational careers in Clay County. Aside from family, Betzy's second love was Orange Park High School. She spent 36 years as a teacher at OPH where she touched so many lives. She had a passion for teaching and a love for her students. She thought of all of them as her children.

Following retirement, Betzy stayed close to education by volunteering regularly at Paterson Elementary School where her grands attend school. She also volunteered as a mentor to students through The YMCA Take Stock in Children.

Betzy was an active member of DKG for the thirty years she was a member of our organization. She joined our Beta Mu Chapter in 1993 and enjoyed being a member with her sister Coleen McDaniels Stoffa who is also one of our Beta Mu Sisters.

Betzy Lou McDaniels Nelson passed peacefully on Monday, June 26, 2023 after a hard-fought battle.



**Barbara Jean Roush**

Barbara Jean Roush was a charter member of our Beta Mu Chapter and she joined DKG in 1968. For many of her fifty-five years of membership in the society, Barbara took an active part in our Beta Mu Chapter.

In 1981, Barbara retired from Clay County District Schools after serving as a teacher and an Assistant Principal at W. E. Cherry Elementary School. She cherished her years as an educator and up until her death, she kept up-to-date on local education in our community. Barbara had lots of good friends and she enjoyed quality time talking with them on the phone.

Barbara was a member of the Clay County Retired Teachers Association and a member of St. Luke’s Catholic Church.

Barbara Jean Roush was 92 years of age when she passed on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. Her legacy is left with those who knew her.

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!



SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
Peggy Elmore	4	Jody Thompson	1	Julie Deck	1
Sandra Gardner	6	Jennifer Mulcahy	7	Jean Bazley	4
Terry Stanilonis	10	Mary Kendall	10	Mary Canfield	4
Sabrina Thomas	16	Nancy Marlette	11	Sandra McCracken	9
Beverly Wilber	18	Coleen Stoffa	11	Alice Kiffmeyer	11
Janet Bruce	22	Jennifer Eason	19	Cheryl Nix	23
Janie McAfee	29	Ruth Paine	20		
DeeDee Philips	29	Linda Liechty Cannon	25		
		Wanda Woods	25		

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CHAPTER  
MINUTES

**May 13th, 2023 Beta Mu Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 at the TLC. Our Guests were introduced: Roxanne Berger, current State President. Terry Stanilonis the future president and Ruth Pridgen past president. Kim Baggs, District Director.

We used the founders at our seats to determine our order for eating.

Susan McInarnay presented our inspiration. She spoke about Erma Bombeck and read the last column she published about changing her life if she had it to live over. Shawn of the South is a similar column online.

Ruth Paine did our Icebreaker about being a DKG Woman. She read descriptions of why we're respected members of the education field. At each table we spoke about educators we have noticed who are an example of excellence.

The secretary's report was sent via email. Lisa Forester is our Corresponding Secretary and her family is moving due to transfer. We appreciate all of Lisa's work. Jill Maunz will be filling in the rest of Lisa's term.

We just had the state convention, where we were awarded the Communication and Marketing Award, Fellowship Award, and Chapter Membership Award. Dunia was awarded a \$2500 scholarship to assist with her pursuit of a doctorate degree. Alma's condo was presented and Kathy Marsh had her Heart to Heart display. Kim Baggs spoke about District 2 and our meeting next year. The theme will be Reaching for More in 2024. It will be on March 2nd in Palatka. There are 11 chapters in District 2.

Roxanne Berger, the current State President, spoke to the attributes of our chapter. DKG will be 100 in 2029. There will be a big celebration in Austin Texas for the International Convention. She mentioned that Terry Stanilonis has been an amazing help for her. She introduced Terry as the new State President on July 1st.

The first meeting next year will be Sat. Sep. 9th at 10:00. Susan told us about Friday, June 9th, we can go to the Orange Park Community Theater together. Tickets are \$25, you can buy them online.

Sharon spoke about May being Founders Month, and told us about our founders. We played Kahoot with each table being a team. Membership and Perfect Attendance awards were presented. We've had 65 different members attending throughout the year. The Executive Committee members and Committee Chairs were honored for their commitment this year.

Pat Litterick spoke about making a member a reserve member. The motion was approved. This is the year we give our Grant in Aid. Pat Litterick presented ours to Sabrina Tompkins, one of our Collegiate Members.

Karen Robinson told of our Library Donation to Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Our Woman Educator of the Year was Maryjane Edgar from last year announced our Woman Educator of the Year – Lisa Allen. We honored Kelly Ludlam and Kim Miskowski for their retirement this year.

We shared our celebrations with Happy Dollars.

We sang our song.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

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[click here](#)

View the Beta Mu website [here](#)

Requests for the newsletter? Feedback? Send an email to Maryjane Edgar

[mjkiffmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:mjkiffmeyer@gmail.com)

Pictures for the newsletter email/text 904-652-4201